

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06052 011815Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0149

S E C R E T PARIS 06052

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E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR VN US

SUBJ: US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS: PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION

REF: STATE 44732

1. EMBOFF SAW SRV LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH AT 1700
MARCH 1 AND TOLD HIM WE WOULD BE PREPARED FOR A MEETING
IN PARIS ON MARCH 5, 6 OR 7 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR
COMMISSION'S VISIT TO HANOI. DO THANH SAID HE THOUGHT
THE 5TH MIGHT BE TOO EARLY FOR THEM TO RECEIVE
INSTRUCTIONS FROM HANOI AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT WOULD
BE BETTER TO PLAN IN TERMS OF MONDAY, THE 7TH. HE WILL
CHECK WITH HANOI, HOWEVER, AND BE BACK TO US SOON.

2. DO THANH SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE
ANY PROBLEM WITH THE PLACE FOR THE MEETING; IT MIGHT
EVEN BE AS INCONSPICUOUS TO MEET IN OUR CHANCERY AS
ELSEWHERE. HE WILL DISCUSS THIS WITH HIS AMBASSADOR,
SOUND OUT HANOI, AND LET US KNOW.

3. EMBOFF UNDERLINED THE TWO, LIMITED SUBJECTS TO BE
DISCUSSED IN THE PRELIMINARY PARIS MEETING: THE
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GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE AGENDA AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS
(PARA 3, REFTEL). DO THANH TOOK THIS OCCASION TO
REITERATE IN STRONGER TERMS THE POINT HE HAD RAISED IN
HIS FEB 28 CONVERSATION. HE SAID THERE SEEMED TO BE A
SMALL DIFFERENCE IN THE INTENTIONS OF THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE PREPARATORY MEETING. HE HAD
NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, BUT HE HAD GAINED THE

IMPRESSION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO DISCUSS SOME MORE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO RESOLVE CERTAIN PROBLEMS TO PERMIT THE MEETINGS IN HANOI TO BE MORE PROFITABLE. HE COMPARED THEIR APPROACH TO THE TRIMMING OF A TREE IN WHICH SMALL, EXTRANEIOUS BRANCHES ARE REMOVED TO GET DOWN TO THE BASICS. EMBOFF NOTED THAT IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE AGENDA, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS WHETHER CERTAIN QUESTIONS COULD BE OMITTED FROM THE AGENDA AND DESIGNATED AS SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A LOWER LEVEL AT A FUTURE DATE. DO THANH IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE ONLY SORT OF PRUNING THE SRV HAD IN MIND, BUT DID NOT FURTHER CLARIFY HIS "IMPRESSION" THAT THE PARIS PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD INVOLVE DISCUSSION OF "FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS."

4. EMBOFF DELIVERED TYPEWRITTEN COPIES OF THE "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA" BIOGRAPHIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION; THE REMAINING FOUR NAMES HAD BEEN TELEPHONED TO DO THANH AT 1100. EMBOFF ALSO SAID THAT JAMES ROSENTHAL, ALREADY KNOWN TO THE SRV EMBASSY, WOULD HEAD THE STAFF SUPPORT ACCOMPANYING THE COMMISSION. DO THANH ASKED TO BE INFORMED ASAP ABOUT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND ALSO THE AIRCRAFT AND CREW. EMBOFF NOTED THAT ROSENTHAL WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ABLE TO ANSWER SUCH "TECHNICAL QUESTIONS" DURING THE PARIS MEETING.

5. EMBOFF REFERRED TO LIAISON CONTACTS TO HANDLE QUESTIONS SUBSEQUENT TO THE PARIS PREPARATORY MEETING
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(PARA 4, REFTTEL); DO THANH TOOK NOTE, AND INDICATED ASSENT.
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Message Attributes

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